

Thursday

**Fulton Lewis, Jr.****The Washington Report**

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 --** The heretofore unidentified "top-ranking Communist" who swapped letters with Lee Harvey Oswald is a veteran revolutionary once convicted of teaching the violent overthrow of the U.S. government.

He is Arnold Samuel Johnson, who, it can be revealed on excellent authority, wrote Oswald from Communist Party headquarters in New York.

Johnson urged Oswald to "keep in touch" as he moved back and forth from Dallas

to New Orleans. While the Johnson letters indicate Oswald was not under Communist discipline, they do show him to be a dedicated Marxist.

Johnson was indicted in 1951, and convicted in 1953, of violating the Smith Act. The prosecution showed that Johnson was loyal to a foreign power and that he had taught the violent overthrow of the federal government. He served three years in prison, getting out in 1957.

Johnson acts now as the Communist Party's executive director. A top-ranking member of the party's national committee. What he is doing, said Schulz, he has no idea. Johnson asked about Lee Oswald, an anti-former Member of Congress that Johnson was "available for any comment."

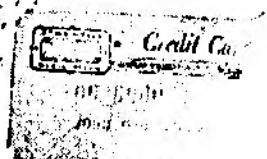
It was not the first time that Johnson has cleaned up. On May 1, 1962, he was a hairy, grey-haired, slightly officious man scheduled to appear on a New York radio show. The program host, Barry Gray had arranged to have Herb Romerstein, a staff anti-Communist, debate with the party spokesman. Johnson stalked off the program when told he would share the mike with Romerstein, a former Communist who serves now as an expert consultant to various government security agencies.

**NOTE:** Another Oswald pen pal was Vincent Theodore Lee, head of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Lee first denied any knowledge of Oswald, who was arrested once for passing out Fair Play leaflets in New Orleans.

Lee then discovered in his files six letters from Oswald, and turned them over to the FBI. Meanwhile, federal authorities had uncovered letters from Lee among Oswald's effects. The letters carried

instructions in setting up Fair Play chapters. Lee has never been identified as a Communist in an appearance before Senate Internal Security, a newspaper, Lee told the Senate amendment to the Civil Rights Bill in refusing to answer questions. He claimed ignorance on Communism, his membership and on Cuban assistance to his "independent" group.

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**KEY TO THE NEWS**

Walter J. Rife